

Serial No. 09/672,373
60130-899
00MRA0028

REMARKS

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that it is unclear how the exterior sheeting closes any access opening in an interior sheet metal as recited in claim 11. Claim 11 does not recite that the exterior sheeting closes an access opening in the interior sheet metal, but rather recites that the exterior sheeting closes the access opening to the hollow interior space formed between the exterior sheeting and the interior sheet metal. The Examiner also states that the language of claim 13 is also unclear. Claim 13 has been cancelled, and some of its features have been added to new claim 27. The amended claim recites that the closing plate closes the access opening, and the closing plate includes an opening that is closed by the carrier module. The amended claim overcomes the rejection.

Claims 10-13 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Szerdahelyi. Szerdahelyi does not disclose an access opening formed at a free edge of an interior sheet metal as claimed. Szerdahelyi discloses a vehicle door including a cutout opening 10 in an inner door panel 1b, as shown in Figure 1a. The Examiner states that the cutout opening 10 is an access opening. The cutout opening 10 is not formed at a free edge of the of the interior door panel 1b as claimed, but is rather formed in a central portion of the interior door panel 1b. Szerdahelyi does not disclose an access opening formed at a free edge of an interior sheet metal as claimed. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 27-29 are also not anticipated by Szerdahelyi. Szerdahelyi does not disclose a carrier module including a window lift mechanism that closes an opening of a closing plate that closes an opening to an access opening as claimed. In Szerdahelyi, a window lift mechanism 31 is mounted to a module support 3 (column 3, lines 36 to 38). A manual operating unit 5 and a side airbag 6, which the Examiner is calling the carrier module, are assembled on the module support 3. The window lift mechanism 31 is not carried by the manual operating unit 5 and the side airbag 6, but is rather carried by the module support 3. Szerdahelyi does not disclose a carrier module including a window lift mechanism that closes an opening of a closing plate that closes an opening to an access opening as claimed. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

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Claims 14-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Szerdahelyi in view of Carlo. The Examiner states that Carlo discloses a carrier module with two guide rails for a cable assembly and a brace, and it would be obvious to provide these features in Szerdahelyi. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claimed invention is not obvious. Claims 14-22 and 24 depend on patentable independent claim 10 and are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Adding Carlo to Szerdahelyi still does not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention because neither of the references discloses an access opening formed at a free edge of an interior sheet metal. Therefore, the combination of the references does not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 10, 11, 14-21, 23 and 25-29 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306 on April 27, 2005.


Amy Spaulding